

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the Office Action. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected. Claims 2 and 5-13 are objected to. Claims 1, 4, and 13 have been amended. Claims 14-20 have been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the Specification as filed at least on page 3, lines 17-21; page 10, lines 15-17; and Figures 1-3 and 12-14. The Specification has been amended to correct typographical errors only. No new matter has been added. The rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments and following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese document 6-331908 to Hideaki (hereinafter "Hideaki"). In rejecting the claims, the Examiner writes in part:

The Japan document 6-331908 discloses an actuator for scanning a light beam comprising an optical element including reflective surface of mirror 11; a movable part including the body of the mirror 11 and electromagnetic coils 18 and 19; a sheet spring (15) and drive means for driving the movable part. See Figs. 1-5.

Applicants submit that Hideaki discloses a pair of leaf springs 15 which extend at a certain angle relative to each other. The base ends of leaf springs 15 which are spaced wider apart are fixed while the free ends which are closer to each other are coupled to mirror 11 such that the "elongations of the leaf springs 15 and 15 reach the apex of the triangle and is positioned on an axis C," (Hideaki; Abstract), which is along the body of mirror 11 itself (Hideaki; Figures 2-5). Thus, the "center of rotation of the mirror 11 can be aligned with the center axis C." (Hideaki; Abstract, Figures 2-4). In other words, Hideaki discloses that mirror 11 rotates about itself.

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In contrast, amended independent Claim 1 recites "a sheet spring having a fixed end and a moveable end supporting the moveable part for a movement of the moveable part along a substantially arcuate path centered about the fixed end of the sheet spring" and "drive means for driving the moveable part along the substantially arcuate path so as to scan the detecting light."

Therefore, because Hideaki does not disclose or suggest all the limitations of Claim 1, Claim 1 is patentable over Hideaki.

Claims 3 and 4 are dependent on Claim 1 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from Hideaki. Therefore, Claims 3 and 4 are allowable over Hideaki for at least the same reasons provided above with respect to Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 5-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that the aforementioned claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Based upon the amendments and remarks above, Applicants believe Claims 2 and 5-13, which are dependent upon Claim 1, are further allowable for at least the same reasons provided above with respect to Claim 1.

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New Claims

Claims 14-20 have been added. Claims 14-18 are dependent on Claim 1 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from Hideaki. Therefore, Claims 14-18 are allowable over Hideaki for at least the same reasons provided above with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 19 recites "drive means for driving the moveable part along a substantially arcuate path centered about the fixed end of the sheet spring so as to scan the detecting light," and is therefore allowable over the references of record for at least similar reasons as those provided above with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 20 recites, "a sheet spring having a fixed end and a moveable end supporting the moveable part for a movement of the moveable part along a substantially arcuate path centered about the fixed end of the sheet spring," and is therefore allowable over the references of record for at least similar reasons as those provided above with respect to Claim 1.

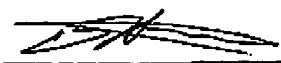
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CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe pending Claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the Application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is hereby requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

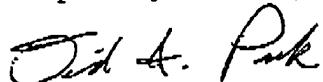
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to (703) 372-9306: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 23, 2004.



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March 23, 2004
Date of Signature

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